

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-03 H-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 NASA-01 USIA-06 OES-03

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R 161440Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7356

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, US, MA

SUBJECT: CHARGE CONVOKED BY FOREIGN MINISTER JUNE 14

1. CHARGE WAS CALLED IN BY FOREIGN MINISTER ZAKARIASY ON LATE SATURDAY MORNING JUNE 14 AT BEHEST OF MILITARY DIRECTORY TO DISCUSS "URGENT PROBLEM." PROBLEM ACCORDING TO FONMIN WAS "AMERICAN CULTURAL ATTACHE WHO HAD MADE INFLAMMATORY REMARKS" TO MALAGASY AT HOTEL COLBERT NIGHT OF TRIAL VERDICT JUNE 12. FONMIN THEN LAUNCHED INTO MONOLOGUE ON "TERRIBLE DIFFICULTIES" FACING MILITARY DIRECTORY AND MADAGASCAR, AND CLOSED BY REQUESTING RESTRICTIONS BE IMPOSED ON CULTURAL ATTACHE.

2. CHARGE RESPONDED BY ASKING SEVERAL QUESTIONS OF DETAIL, MOST OF WHICH FONMIN COULD NOT ANSWER. HE DID SAY THIS WAS ONLY SUCH INCIDENT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE. CHARGE THEN TOLD HIM BOTH CAO AND PAO OUT OF COUNTRY NIGHT IN QUESTION AND STILL ARE. FONMIN WAS VISIBLY ANNOYED BY SITUATION HE FOUND HIMSELF IN AND IMMEDIATELY TOLD HIS SECRETARY TO CALL COMMANDER RATSIRAKA BUT SHE WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE HIM. MEETING CLOSED WITH FONMIN'S REQUEST THAT CHARGE CAUTION EMBASSY STAFF ON DISCUSSIONS IN PUBLIC.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT:
DESPITE EXTENSIVE QUESTIONING OF AMERICANS HERE, UNABLE SO
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FAR TO LOCATE ANYONE WHO WAS IN HOTEL COLBERT NIGHT IN

QUESTION. GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE OF INCIDENT AT THIS POINT
IS THAT IT ILLUSTRATES PRESENT HYPERSENSITIVITY OF GOMR AND
RATSIRAKA'S READINESS TO TAKE QUICK ACTION. COUNTRY TEAM
PLUS CONTRACT ENGLISH TEACHERS AT CULTURAL CENTER AND CONTRACT
NASA EMPLOYEES WHO ARE U.S. CITIZENS HAVE BEEN REMINDED
TO WATCH WHAT THEY SAY IN PUBLIC.
ELFERS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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